

**IELC: SPECIAL POPULATIONS COMMITTEE****MEETING REPORT****Date:** January 20, 2011

**In person Attendees:** Donna Nylander (Valley View School District), Daniel Fitzgerald (DCFS), Evelyn Green (Star Net), Dennice Ward Epstein (ECHO), Cherlynn Shelby (DCFS), Frances Elbert (DCFS), Karen Drill (Learning Point Associates), Deanna Durriga (Office of the Governor), Carie Bires (Heartland Alliance), Bea Nichols (Chicago Department of Family and Support Services), Kathy Chvostal-Schmidt (S.P.E.E.D. Early Learning Center), Linda Dauksas (Elmhurst College), Lynnare Deutsch (Erikson Institute), Karen Berman (Ounce of Prevention),

**Phone Attendees:** Kathy Urbanus-Bernerno (4C), Kathy Hollowich (StarNET), Rebecca (AOK), Chris McGrath (Strengthening Families), Vinni Hall (ISBE); Chris McGrath (Strengthening Families), Mitch Kremer (NIU)

**Agenda item:** **Approve Minutes****Notes** Minutes Approved.**Next Steps** None.**Agenda item:** **State Updates****Notes**

**Daniel:** Budget for Children and Family Services is a maintenance budget. Working on program and payment plans. Director of Juvenile Justice, Arthur Bishop, has been confirmed as Director of Juvenile Justice. He will be another partner in the process.

**Donna :** PreK for All grants will be competitive for those who already have them.

**Vinni:** Increasing general state aid funds and mandated categoricals.

**Next Steps** None.**Agenda Item** **Workgroup/Workplan Updates**

**Child Welfare (Frances):** Frances reviewed the main components of the Child Welfare Workplan. Cherlynn discusses the importance of including representatives for families and children who are homeless. Frances points out that DCFS is currently focusing on transparency of services provided by DCFS. Frances discusses how there are more agencies currently working together and collaborating as a result of the economic recession. Carie reported about the next cross training coming up in February on youth homelessness and DCFS on February 25. Cherlynn discussed the importance of access and using the state provider database. Frances suggested having an overview on the state provider database for a future meeting. Carie discussed how important using the database has been for homeless and housing providers.

Birth – 5 in South Cook county –may be able to add services to the state provider database.

Daniel discussed some of the benefits of groups coming together to design the child welfare workplan. Daniel suggests that the focus of child welfare workgroup is to find a way to determine how effective the services provided are. How well are young children learning? Reaching the mile markers? Frances says she can add an evaluation of services goal to the

workplan.

Bea says that there is a Head Start outcomes framework, and that as a learning community that information is already there. Bea will send the group a link of to the Head Start outcomes framework that has been created over the past 7 and 8 years. It has every domain represented that can be assessed by child. It also includes strategies to impact teacher training based on the individual child's needs. Daniel talks about possibly having a data exchange with Head Start. Bea talks about first looking at groups of children and if/how they progressing according to the benchmarks on the framework. Bea says that Laurie F. may also be able to provide access to that information from the state.

Lynnare also has access to DCFS children and screening data/referral to early intervention providers. There is a way to track progress over time based on a study that was conducted about a year ago.

Vinni expresses that there are so many systems with so many different languages.

Karen B. says that the data work group is to collect information on kids from 0 -5. Will look at which agencies are measuring what. Daniel says we should be having conversations with the Data Work Group to find out where the group is going. Karen B. says the DWG will be looking at which entities have the various data elements already ready.

Donna says we should have a strong collaboration with the DWG.

Carie says that her group is interested in where data is being collected on homeless youth, especially 0-5.

Daniel reiterates that the next focus will be on quality, gathering information from Bea N. and Head Start, and possibly creating quality goal. Need to get together with the DWG and connecting with them. Daniel also says that there needs to be an administrative part of the workplan that involves reaching out to other groups, entities, and collaboration.

Deanna says that the conversation can also continue with Shannon C.

**Special Needs (Dennice):** Group briefly discusses whether or not the Special Needs workgroup should either send out a memo or create an FAQ document. Karen B. presents an overview of what the 14-day timeline means for the entire group. Karen B. says that the many school districts within the state have differing interpretations of what the 14-day timeline means. Dennice provides initial clarification and examples.

Karen B. indicates that the memo should come first followed by the creation of a FAQ document.

Daniel asks a question about vetting the document. Deanna and Karen B. says the memo should go first through work group, then Special Populations Committee, then through ISBE review. Dennice then suggests a companion document with the memo that is more user-friendly.

1. Official draft of memo
2. Timeline for rolling out
3. Suggestions for companion piece.

Donna asks Dennice to get a hold of Pam prior to 1/31 work group meeting. Karen will send

	<p>draft to group for review prior to 1/31.</p> <p>Daniel suggest that maybe a webinar could be held to clarify any confusion around the intent. Says that group needs to list all of the things that need to happen prior to sending out the memo. Daniel says that with DCFS there is a lot of preparation that goes on before any memo goes out.</p> <p>Mitch says he was reviewing the parent guide which has a four-color flowchart that shows the steps that should occur and has all of the steps laid out. Mitch reiterates the steps in the flowchart. Mitch says that this has already been addressed in the parent guide.</p> <p>Deanna states that we work with ISBE with their process with IELC support. Getting it approved and out, we will continue to see where we can do that once we have the product that we want to support. Deanna says we could also remind people that this information is already out there in the parent guide.</p> <p>Dennice also supports the idea of webinars or presentations at conferences for distribution and outreach.</p> <p>Discussion around weaving homeless and Early Intervention and Childfind in homeless shelters. Carie reiterates priority, but underserved, homeless population.</p>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<p>Karen will send 14-day timeline memo draft to Special Needs workgroup to review prior to the 1/31 meeting.</p> <p>Child Welfare work group will continue to finalize their workplan.</p>
<b>Agenda item:</b>	<b>Workplan Integration Discussion</b>
<b>Notes</b>	Daniel reiterates that the overall workplan will be used for IELC strategic planning.
<b>Next Steps</b>	Workgroups continue to finalize the workplans Finalized by <u>February 16</u> .
<b>Agenda item:</b>	<b>Upcoming Meetings</b>
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Meeting dates set for third Thursday in the following months (2:00 – 4:00 PM, AIR)</p> <p>March 17 May 19 July 21 September 15 November 17</p>
<b>Next Steps</b>	

<b>Next Meeting</b>	March 17, 2011, 2:00 PM, American Institutes for Research (AIR)
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